



null / ALL Transmittal Number: 16043178

Date Processed: 12/28/2016

Notice of Service of Process

Primary Contact: State Farm Enterprise SOP

Corporation Service Company- Wilmington, DELAWARE

2711 Centerville Road Wilmington, DE 19808

Entity: State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

Entity ID Number 3461675

Entity Served: State Farm Mutual Auto Ins Company

Title of Action: Brittany Baker vs. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

Document(s) Type: Summons/Complaint

Nature of Action: Contract

Court/Agency: Maury County Circuit Court, Tennessee

Case/Reference No: 15764

Jurisdiction Served:TennesseeDate Served on CSC:12/28/2016Answer or Appearance Due:30 Days

Originally Served On: TN Department of Insurance on 12/08/2016

How Served:Certified Mail
Sender Information:
Benjamin J. Miller

615-353-0930

Information contained on this transmittal form is for record keeping, notification and forwarding the attached document(s). It does not constitute a legal opinion. The recipient is responsible for interpreting the documents and taking appropriate action.

To avoid potential delay, please do not send your response to CSC

2711 Centerville Road Wilmington, DE 19808 (888) 690-2882 | sop@cscqlobal.com

STATE OF TENNESSEE Department of Commerce and Insurance 500 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243-1131 PH - 615.532.5260, FX - 615.532.2788 Jerald.E.Gilbert@tn.gov

December 09, 2016

State Farm Mutual Auto Ins Company 2908 Poston Avenue, C/O C S C Nashville, TN 37203 NAIC # 25178 Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested 7016 0750 0000 2777 9536 Cashier # 29491

Re: Brittany Baker V. State Farm Mutual Auto Ins Company

Docket # 15764

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 56-2-504 or § 56-2-506, the Department of Commerce and Insurance was served December 08, 2016, on your behalf in connection with the above-styled proceeding. Documentation relating to the subject is herein enclosed.

Jerald E. Gilbert Designated Agent Service of Process

Enclosures

cc: Circuit Court Clerk Maury County Courthouse, Rm 202 Columbia, Tn 38401

(STATE OF TEN			
BRITTANY BAKER		CIVIL ACTION DOCKET NO. 15744		
Vs. STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOM	Plaii	Method of Service: Maury County Sheriff Out of County Sheriff Secretary of State		
Serve Defendant	Certified Mail			
Through TN Commissioner of Ins	Personal Service			
500 James Robertson Parkway,	ant			
To the above named Defendant:				
Square, Columbia, TN 38401 and you upon you. You are further directe attorney at the address listed below	our defense must be made within thin to to file your defense with the Cle	ou in the Circuit Court of Maury County, 41 Public rty (30) days from the date this summons is served rk of the Court and send a copy to the Plaintiff's ent by default will be rendered against you for the		
ISSUED: 12/2/	16	SANDY MCLAIN Circuit Court Clerk		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	By: (1) Mauryl County, Tennessee		
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Carrie LaBrec, Attorney T	HE HIGGINS FIRM, PLLC		
or	525 Fourth Ave. South, Nashville, Tennessee 37210 Address			
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS		16-8372; Email: carrie@higginsfirm.com		
TO THE SHERIFF:		,		
Please execute this summons a	nnd make your return hereon as provid	ed by law.		
		Circuit Court Clerk		
Received this summons for service thi	sday of	, 20		
A If you	have a disability and require assistance,	SHERIFF		

RETURN ON PERSONAL SERVICE OF SUMMONS

I hereby certify and return that on the	day of	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	, 20,
served this summons an			
			in the following manner
	: 		<u> </u>
failed to serve this sumn	nons within 90 days after its i	ssuance because _	
		Sheriff/Process Se	20Ver
RETU	IRN ON SERVICE OF SUMN	•	·
I hereby certify and return, that on the			I sent, postage prepaid by
registered return receipt mail or certified return			
to the defendant,		. On	the day of
20	_ , I received the return receipt	for said registered or co	ertified mail, which had been sigi
by on the	day of		, 20 . Said retui
receipt is attached to this original summons an	d both documents are being ser	nt herewith to the Circui	t Court Clerk for filing.
	$t_i + \cdots$		
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFOR	E ME ON THIS		
DAY OF		PLAINTIFF, PLAINTIF	F'S ATTORNEY OR OTHER PERSO
			ATUTE TO SERVE PROCESS
NOTARY PUBLIC orI	DEPUTY CLERK	•	a .
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:			
NOTICE			
TO THE DEFENDANT(S):	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Tennessee law provides a ten thousand do personal property exemption from execution or seizu	re to satisfy a judgment. If a judgme	ent	ATTACH
should be entered against you in this action and you must file a written list, under oath, of the items you w	ish to claim as exempt with the clerk	of .	RETURN
he court. The list may be filed at any time and may nowever, unless it is filed before the judgment become			RECEIPT
execution or garnishment issued prior to the filing of texempt by law and do not need to be listed; these inc	the list. Certain items are automatic	ally	- HERE
clothing) for yourself and your family and trunks or o apparel, family portraits, the family Bible, and school you would have the right to recover them. If you do r	ther receptacles necessary to conta books. Should any of these items b	in such e seized,	(IF APPLICABLE)
to exercise it, you may wish to seek the counsel of a			
	Sandy McLain, Clerk of the Circ	uit Court in the State a	nd County aforesaid,
	hereby certify this to be a true a this case.	and correct copy of the	original summons issued
		McLain, CLERK	
(To be completed only if copy certification required.)			
	By:		D.C.

FILE COPY THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MAURY COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT COLUMBIA

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Brittany Baker, the plaintiff, brings this action against State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, the defendant, for breach of contract, bad-faith pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-7-105, negligence and negligence per se.

PARTIES

- 1. Brittany Baker is an individual residing in Maury County, Tennessee.
- 2. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is an Illinois insurance company with its principal office in Bloomington, Illinois. State Farm can be served with process through the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

3. Jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this cause of action accrued in Maury County, Tennessee, where State Farm transacts or has transacted business.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, MAURY COUNTY, the undersigned clerk, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original of this instrument. This and all days

Sandy McLaure

FACTS

- 4. State Farm sold a policy of insurance to Ms. Baker in Maury County, Tennessee bearing policy number 295 5040-F12-42A and with effective dates of November 13, 2015 to June 12, 2016 ("the Policy").
- 5. Ms. Baker purchased uninsured motor vehicle coverage with bodily injury limits of \$250,000 per person and \$500,000 per accident.
 - 6. All of the premiums owed for the Policy have been paid.
- 7. On December 5, 2015, Ms. Baker was struck by a vehicle operated by Gregory Anderson.
- 8. Ms. Baker was injured in the accident and incurred approximately \$122,943.63 in medical expenses as a result of her injuries.
- 9. Mr. Anderson's liability insurance company offered the limit of his liability policy in the amount of \$25,000 in exchange for a full release of Mr. Anderson, which Ms. Baker was agreeable to, and pursuant to T.C.A. § 56-7-1206 the parties proposed the settlement to State Farm.
- 10. By letter dated May 5, 2016, State Farm consented to the proposed settlement and waived its subrogation rights against Mr. Anderson. State Farm is in possession of a copy of the May 5, 2016 letter.
- On May 27, 2016 Ms. Baker made a formal demand for payment of her remaining UM bodily injury limit of \$225,000 (\$250,000 minus the \$25,000 paid by the liability carrier), and on June 17, 2016 State Farm formally refused to pay.

- 12. By emails dated June 17, 2016 and November 4, 2016, Ms. Baker requested, through counsel, to proceed with binding arbitration of her UM claim and suggested two individuals to serve as arbitrator pursuant to T.C.A. § 56-7-1206. State Farm is in possession of copies of the June 17, 2016 and November 4, 2016 emails.
 - 13. State Farm has not responded to either request.

COUNT I: BREACH OF CONTRACT

- 14. The Policy constitutes a valid and enforceable contract between Ms. Baker and State Farm.
- 15. State Farm has an obligation pursuant to the Policy to pay Ms. Baker's demand or to submit the claim to binding arbitration.
- 16. State Farm has refused to pay Ms. Baker's demand or to submit the claim to binding arbitration.
 - 17. State Farm's refusals are a breach of contract.
 - 18. State Farm's breach has caused Ms. Baker to suffer damages.
 - 19. State Farm's breach was negligent, reckless and intentional.

COUNT II: BAD-FAITH PURSUANT TO TENN. CODE ANN. § 56-7-105

- 20. A formal demand for payment was made on May 27, 2016, and formal demands to proceed with binding arbitration were made on June 17, 2016 and November 4, 2016.
- 21. Ms. Baker waited more than 60 days after making the first two formal demands before filing suit.
- 22. State Farm's refusal to pay Ms. Baker's demand or to submit the claim to binding arbitration was not in good faith, as explained in more detail below.

- 23. After formally refusing to pay Ms. Baker's demand, State Farm refused to consider or even acknowledge additional, relevant information that had been discovered and provided to State Farm by Ms. Baker's counsel.
- 24. State Farm would not respond to Ms. Baker's demands to submit the claim to binding arbitration or otherwise give her a reason for its refusal. It simply ignored her.
- 25. State Farm's bad-faith refusals inflicted additional expense, loss, and injury, including attorney fees, on Ms. Baker.
 - 26. State Farm's bad-faith refusals were negligent, reckless and intentional.

COUNT III: NEGLIGENCE

- 27. State Farm owed Ms. Baker a duty of reasonable care in performing its obligations under the Policy and in working with Ms. Baker on her claim in good faith.
- 28. State Farm breached its duty of reasonable care by failing to pay Ms. Baker's demand, by refusing to consider or even acknowledge additional, relevant information that had been discovered and provided to State Farm by Ms. Baker's counsel, and by ignoring her demands to submit the claim to binding arbitration.
 - 29. State Farm's negligence caused Ms. Baker to suffer damages.

COUNT IV: NEGLIGENCE PER SE

- 30. State Farm's violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-7-105 constituted negligence per se.
 - 31. State Farm's negligence per se caused Ms. Baker to suffer damages.

DEMAND FOR RELIEF

32. Ms. Baker seeks a judgment against State Farm for incidental damages caused by State Farm's breach of contract.

- 33. Ms. Baker seeks a judgment against State Farm for compensatory damages, including but not limited to pain and suffering, medical expenses and loss of enjoyment of life.
- 34. Ms. Baker seeks a judgment against State Farm for the statutory penalty provided for in Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-7-105, including the additional expense, loss, and injury, including attorney fees, caused by State Farm's bad-faith.
- 35. Ms. Baker seeks a judgment against State Farm for punitive damages due to its intentional and reckless conduct.
- 36. Ms. Baker seeks a judgment against State Farm for pre- and post-judgment interest.
- 37. Ms. Baker seeks a judgment against State Farm taxing State Farm with the costs of this action.
 - 38. Ms. Baker requests a trial by jury.
 - 39. Ms. Baker seeks other relief as justice may require.

Respectfully Submitted,

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THE HIGGINS FIRM, PLLO

BENJAMIN J. MILLER, BPR No. 25575

Attorneys for Plaintiffs 525 4th Avenue South Nashville, TN 37210 (615) 353-0930